

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices and, most importantly, all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a strong alternative to cable in our community. Throughout the country, people will now be able to turn to satellite TV to access their local news, weather and community information, in addition to a comprehensive package of national video programming. But just as exciting, the merger will bring the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't have high-speed Internet access. These tremendous benefits to consumers won't happen without the merger. Satellite-delivered Internet service will bring an affordable and competitive alternative to cable modems and DSL to consumers in big cities, small towns and rural areas alike. I myself live in a rural community and I know how frustrating it is to be unable to receive high speed internet service or to be unable to receive my local channels. The local cable company in my town has high rates and service that is slow and undependable. Many times when I was still subscribing to them, my service was suspended because their lines were chopped in half by mowers or people working in their yards. Repeated requests to bury the lines deeper went unnoticed and to this very day their cable lies exposed across my yard. Help me by giving me more options to choose from than this small town cable company with slow service and high rates. Let me continue with my satellite service by giving us more options. I am a student as well and I have to deal with slow internet service or service that sometimes will not connect because we only have one internet server in our area. The high speed access would allow me to rely better on my internet and to use it for my school projects. As a future educator, I feel our children in this rural area need to be allowed the same opportunity to keep up with the changing times. It will be years before our area gets high speed access unless you help us. The merger will give me a competitive choice for Internet access and will be especially advantageous to rural communities like mine where cable modems and DSL are not likely to be available anytime in the near future.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.

Sincerely,

Milena Hylle
1217 Osage Street
Wynne, AR 72396

